The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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IN THIS ISSUE

GODSPELL INSIDE

City up against a wall on right-of-way issue

by Cheryl Cohen

Leo Bodin, co-chair of the Committee for Civic Improvement, says he and his wife have to walk on the street in order to avoid the brick wall which surrounds a new home now under construction on the corner of Washington and Lincoln streets in Lemon Grove.

He's probably right. The "retaining wall", as it was characterized by owner William McReynolds' plans when presented for a building permit, does indeed go right to the edge of the property, allowing no room for public right-of-way.

The city's interim Community Planning Director Robert Larkins has received numerous calls about the property now that the wall has been built. Irate citizens are asking how construction was possible within the city's setback requirements and why was there no public hearing about a Conditional Use Permit.

Larkins said that, given current requirements to require dedication of public right-of-way, the city lacks the ability to limit or prohibit the construction of small retaining walls (up to 42" in height) on single family properties existing within single family zoning.

In properties such as McReynolds', an administerial permit is all that is legally required and does not require a Planning Commission process or public hearing.

Although negotiations with McReynolds is a possible solution to acquire land sufficient for public right-of-way, the city is not expecting wholesale wall construction with the intent of sale to take place.

Larkins has requested that Public Works Director Charles Stuck take a look at the situation and make a report as to possible remedies to the problem.

Larkins said that the city would probably not issue a Stop Work Permit as an answer to the problem.

"We'd have a major lawsuit from Mr. McReynolds, which we'd probably lose, Larkins said. "What he is building is almost irrelevant. There is a narrow section of right-of-way, as a result of lawful construction on private property."

In actuality, there is no section available as a walkway around McReynolds' wall, narrow or otherwise. Are citizens to be expected to walk in the road if there is no room for right-of-way?

The city says they are not, but it has to figure out what their alternatives are before they can take any action. Stuck says (without having the benefit of seeing for himself yet) that one alternative may be to eliminate any room for parking along the wall.

To the untrained eye, it doesn't appear that there would be enough room for parking and cars to pass at that intersection.

"We may have a set of circumstances which was not anticipated," Larkins admits. He said that if there is a need to acquire a strip of land and negotiation with McReynolds fails, the city could, as a last resort, condemn the property and purchase what is needed by exercising power of imminent domain.

Assistant City Manager Bob Richardson is also investigating citizen complaints about the size and design of McReynolds' property, as it relates to the surrounding neighborhood.

The construction consists of a 4,000 square foot home with several garages to house his antique car collection.

Although it hardly seems that, as Bodin claims in his letter, the city will have to brace itself for a "major attack on the Lemon Grove treasury," its planning and engineering departments agree that it's at least worthy of further study.

The City's Big 2-0

Former City Manager Jack Shelver (below) was the keynote speaker for last week's 20th Anniversary Party for the city of Lemon Grove. Mayor Mary Sessom and husband, Steve Baker, cut the rug while participants browsed the story boards at the Lemon Grove Senior Center.

Photos by Cheryl Cohen

St. John's youth close in on meeting pope

by Joe Naiman

The youth and young adults at St. John of the Cross are moving toward their goal of raising the money to send the group to World Youth Week next month.

The Paris Review

St. John's Youth Director Steve Browne notes that the group has raised about $100,000 in the past year. About $10,000 more is needed to ensure that the group doesn't return to a deficit.

Four additional fundraisers are planned, including two on Saturday. That morning money will be raised through a car wash at Golden State Gasoline and in the evening, the church will host a Tex-Mex dinner.

On Aug. 5 the group will travel to Los Angeles to participate in the audience of the Leesa Gibbons Show. The show pays for groups to be members of the audience, but required a majority of the group to be adults.

The group is also participating in a rosary fundraiser, where Catholics purchase inexpensive rosary beads. The group will have the rosaries blessed by the Pope and return the rosaries to the purchasers.

The entourage of 46 is the largest group attending World Youth Week of any parish in the United States. It consists of 20 youths, 13 young adults and 13 adult leaders.

"We're definitely going. We may be borrowing," said Browne. "Our goal before we leave is to have the money raised so we're not in a negative status. They've done an outstanding job, they really have."

On Sunday, a special Mass will be said at the Immaculata (on the University of San Diego campus) by Bishop Robert Brom for all of the youth in the diocese. The Mass will start at 2 p.m. The actual World Youth Week will be Aug. 19 - 24 in Paris. The group will leave Aug. 9 and will return Aug. 25. The itinerary includes a week in Italy, two days in Lourdes, six days in Paris and one day in London.

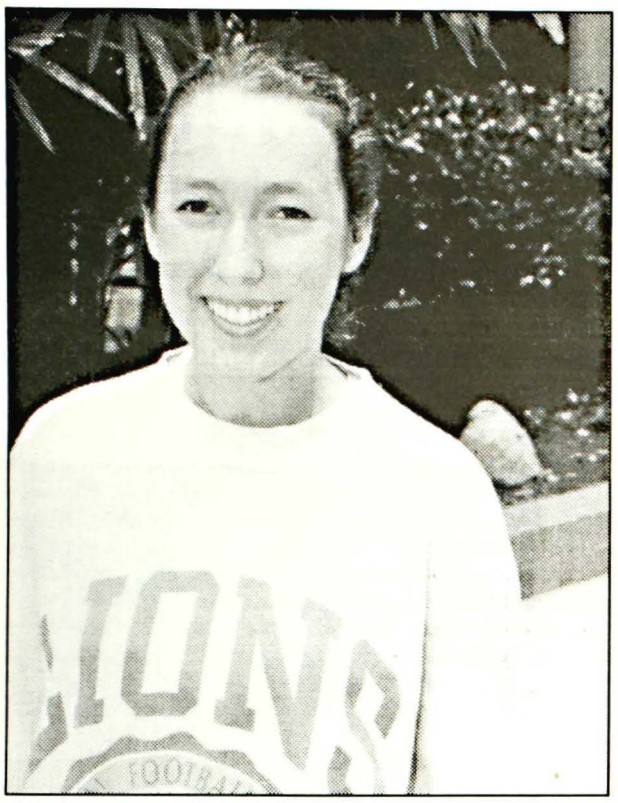
The group will have four opportunities to see Pope John Paul II. They will attend a Sunday Mass at the Vatican Aug. 10, return to the Vatican for visitation Aug. 13, celebrate the pope's arrival in Paris Aug. 21, and attend the closing Mass Aug. 24.

"That's pretty spectacular to have that many opportunities to be in front of the Pope. It's not only a very spiritual opportunity; they're excited about it," said Browne.

Browne notes that support from the parish and the community made the trip possible.

"We could not have done this without the incredible support of the parishioners and the community of Lemon Grove," he said. "My sincere thanks again to the people who have supported us - to allow us to have this opportunity."

Put on a happy face!



Lemon Grove Resident, Nicole Scheidt will appear in San Diego Jr. Theatre's production of "Bye Bye Birdie," the hilarious results of a rock and roll star getting drafted. The show opens at 7 p.m. July 31 at the Casa del Prado Theatre in Balboa Park. Performances run through Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Additionally, there will be an interpretation for the deaf at the 2 p.m. performance on Aug. 2. Tickets are priced between $7 and $9 and can be reserved through the box office at 239-8355.

Photo by John Valdez

Lemon Grove Fire Log

July 4-10, 1997 (Cont.)

2000 blk. Dayton Dr. Fainting.
8300 blk. Broadway. Unresponsive.
7500 blk. Broadway. Fall.
3000 blk. Fisher Ln. Assault victim.
Hwy 94 WB/Grove St. Vegetation fire.
7900 blk. Palm St. Unconscious.
3700 blk. Grove St. Rectal bleeding.
8300 blk. Broadway. Diabetic problem.
8200 blk. Broadway. Broken water main.
6900 blk. Central Ave. High fever.
Lemon Grove Ave./Montana St. Person down.
2200 blk. Bonita St. Difficulty breathing.
7500 blk. Cuyamaca Ave. Possible stroke.
7900 blk. North Ave. Difficulty breathing.
7600 blk. Broadway. Dumpster Fire.
2300 blk. Washington St. Reaction to insect bite.
8500 blk. Palm St. Laceration.
7100 blk. West View Pl. Seizure.
1300 blk. Taft St. Co Alarm residential.
7900 blk. North Ave. Unknown medical.
Blossom Ln./Sweetwater Rd. Person down.
Hwy 94 WB/Massachusetts Ave. Vegetation fire.
7000 blk. Broadway. Seizure.
1300 blk. Glencoe Dr. Snake removal.
7700 blk. Broadway. Dizzy.
Hwy 94 WB/Grove St. Vehicle fire/freeway.
8300 blk. Broadway. Traffic accident.
3200 blk. College Pl. Multifamily residential fire.

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WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

		High	Low
July	16	82	64
July	17	79	62
July	18	76	64
July	19	75	64
July	20	76	62
July	21	77	60
July	22	-	-

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Lemon Twist

by Cheryl Cohen

I normally try to stay away from the word "perky," but in this case it could benefit all of us. On Saturday, you have a chance to "Perk Up the Park" with SDG&E (in partnership with I Love a Clean San Diego) from 8 am to 10 am, at Monterey Heights Park. Volunteers will cleanup and revitalize the grounds by planting flowers and trees, removing litter and graffiti, and by painting playground equipment. Painting graffiti on the equipment will, in all likelihood, be discouraged, so taggers can just stay home on this one. Call 467-0903 for information.

One more chance left to attend the last of the Concerts in the Park series, on July 31, so don't miss out. Bring your blanky, favorite person to sit on and make an evening of listening to the Fabulous Ultratones play classic and contemporary rock n' roll. They're asking that you leave your dogs at home, so make sure that partner of yours passes muster.

So, you tell me which is worse in the following situation: the response (or lack of it) by our city's various departments, or the complainant's refusal to give her name in order to make the situation better? A citizen called Councilman Craig Lake to tell him about last Monday, when her vacationing neighbor's burglar alarm went off due to a brief brown-out, or power hiccup in her area. No one was home to turn off the alarm, so she called Lemon Grove's code enforcement officer Craig Bonner for help. He spent a lot of time telling her what he couldn't do, and to call the Sheriff's department, who referred her back to Bonner. He said he'd check into it, but never got back to her. The next day, when the alarm was still going off, she called animal control, who told her to try the fire department, whose troupes came within 10 minutes and shut the offending alarm off.

Which reminds me: During the fire department's RFP discussions, a couple of business people in Lemon Grove were unhappy with the proposed contracting out for fire services, but refused to speak out at the meeting. Why? For fear that if they ever needed permits or fire services in the future, there may be negative repercussions. This woman with the alarm problem wouldn't come forward to complain (nor even give her name for the paper), for fear of causing "conflicts" between her, her neighbor (who was not upset by her actions) and the city.

My editor's question was, "Do these people think there's a buncha renegade firefighters/code people running around, exacting revenge on people that complain about them, or are they just all watching too much television?" I just loved that question, because it gave me some very colorful visuals of gangster like mobs of firefighters in fireproofed zoot suits – and now code enforcement extortion gangs, too.

By now, you may or may not know that Boston Market is pulling out of its lease of the property at Massachusetts and Broadway. Developer Tom Warburton reportedly has other places chomping at the bit to get in there, so calm down, Boom-Boom.

I have but one thought about Mayor Mary Sessom's column last week (I like to think of it as "Mme. M on acid"), in regard to her vision of Lemon Grove's future "Sessom Library": (to be sung to the tune of "With a Little Help From My Friends," by The Beatles – What name do you see when you turn out the lights? ... I can't tell you, but I know it's mine.

And, not to leave out Councilman Craig Lake, who has just announced his candidacy for mayor: (to be sung to the tune of "It's Not Unusual," by Tom Jones – "It's not unusual for me to laugh at anyone ... and it doesn't mean you're not capable to win ... but when you announced that your hat was in the ring ... I laughed because ... we've all already known! Oh, Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoah whoaaah ... (add more whoas here til end)"

Send your announcements for candidacy right here to The Review, or directly to me at 264-3153 (msg), 264-4180 (fax), or cirious@cts.com (Internet), and we'll cough up a song for you, too!

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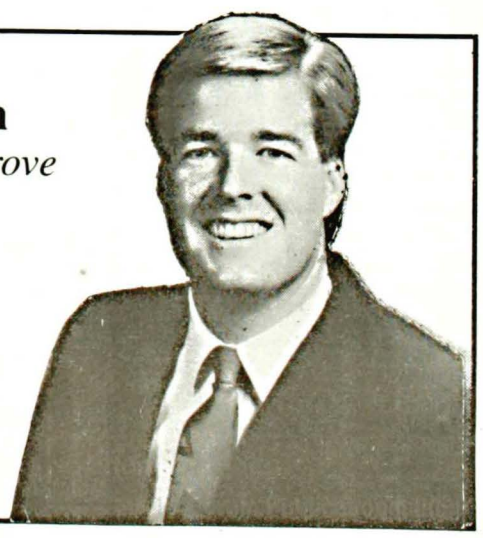


Commentary

We just aren't funny anymore

by Greg Eichelberger

After just a few viewings of my Columbia House video collection of the best of "All In The Family" and "Sanford And Son," I've come to the very sad, yet obvious conclusion that we, as a society, just aren't funny anymore.

I remember well, as a youth, watching these particular TV shows, and a few others during 1970s, and laughing not only at the extreme opinions of the characters, but also *with* them. The use of bigotry and racism was a way to expose our bad sides in a humorous vein, and therefore teach the viewers without becoming preachy.

From his summer, 1971, debut, Archie Bunker (played by the left-of-center Carol O'Connor) was the quintessential American pop culture icon. *Everybody* had an opinion of him, and nearly everyone could relate to him in one way or another. You either hated his overt prejudices, or loved his ability to say the things millions of people were actually feeling.

Consequently, it became one of the most-watched TV shows of all-time, topping the Neilson ratings for five consecutive years, something no other program has *ever* done.

The best part of it was, conservatives *and* liberals could latch on to this show. Those from the right identifying with the reactionary Archie, those from the left relating to Mike "Meathead" Stivak, his radical, post-hippy son-in-law, while the greater majority sided with Edith or Gloria, who represented the "sensible middle."

When Archie used words like "kike," "spick," "dago," "kraut," "jig" or "chink," or when Mike called Archie a "facist," it wasn't to heap insults upon people, it was to show how we transfer our anger to those with traditionally lower stations in our country.

It was the way a lot of white males, who were slowly losing their influence, felt inside.

Another show during that same era was "Sanford And Son," which showed that you didn't have to be white to be an idiot. And, had it not been for "All In The Family," this program would have been Number One.

Millions (including my grandma Edith) tuned in every week to see what Fred, Lamont, Grady, Bubba, Ester and others would do or say, not to have it banned for expressing itself. For example, in one episode, Fred, played by longtime risque night-club comic Redd Foxx, described a group of blacks at a wedding as "jive niggers." It was a hilarious scene in the context of the premise.

But that could not even be thought of in these dark times. Our oppressive politically-corrective culture would never allow such "slurs" to be written into a script, no matter how funny or clever it is.

Today, unfortunately, *any* negative reference to a minority or a women is strictly taboo, leaving only fat, white guys who think of nothing but sex as the butt of the rather flaccid jokes.

When our thought-control police and their allies in the mainstream media can destroy lives and reputations over small indiscretions, it's no wonder most of us clam up.

Writers, sensitive to *every* possible negative connotation, are forced to squelch their self-expression in the name of pleasing special interests and collecting a paycheck.

Now before you start thinking that all I want to do is insult ethnic minorities, think again. Each episode of these shows usually ended with the leads humbled in some way, proving that we all make mistakes and we all misjudge each other.

I just appreciated the honesty and straight talk exhibited by these characters. And, it was *funny*. Nobody wants to watch a supposed comedy that purports to be morally superior. That's why shows like "Cosby" and "Rosanne" collapsed under the weight of their own hypocrisy.

Alas, today's viewers are forced to make it through "Suddenly Susan," "Ellen" and "Grace Under Fire," shows that wouldn't challenge the intelligence of a 4-year-old German Shepherd.

Thank goodness vidiots like me can still watch "The Simpsons," "Beavis And Butthead" and "King Of The Hill," which *still* allow the writers to be brutally honest while making you laugh.

Of course, cartoon characters are able to get away with more things than a real person.

I'd write more on this subject, but I just realized I'm late for my weekly Sensitivity Training session, the punishment for my last editorial.

PG Perspectives

by Phillip Giannangeli

Making sense

Sometimes in life, things have a funny way of making sense long after the fact. Many years ago I came within a hair's breath of failing seventh grade art. A courtesy D minus grade saved me form the ignominy of being the only failure in the class who showed up with regularity. From that harrowing experience to today's column may seem like a desperate reach. It isn't and let me explain why.

In the seventh grade at Freemont Junior High School, everyone had to take an art class. It wasn't an elective as it would later become and it certainly wasn't what the arts have become today: non existent in many schools. Not only was the class required, but so were many of the projects. The one that almost led to my downfall was one that involved perspective, coordination, and the common sense to know when not to go any further. I possessed none of those qualities as an acned, scrawny seventh grader.

The project in question involved sculpting. Each student was required to bring in a large bar of ivory for the activity. We were instructed to carve from that soap an animal that would be easily recognizable to other members of the class. We were allowed to use several tools that were provided by the teacher and cautioned to plan out, visualize the sculpture.

I decided that the perfect Ivory soap sculpture for me would be a horse. Kind of like Roy Roger's Trigger or, better yet, the Lone Ranger's Silver (the color of the Ivory soap bar lent itself to a sculpture of Silver). Thus began my ordeal with sculpting.

Following my teacher's admonition about planning, I drew a picture of what almost resembled a horse and then proceeded to trace something similar to it onto the bar of Ivory. The horse had a look about it (prehistoric perhaps) but some of my classmates assured me that what I had marked on the soap did indeed look like a horse. I was on the road to fulfilling my seventh grade art requirement.

The pile of soap shavings grew slowly at first. I tried to follow the outline I had gently carved in the soap. Somehow, however, my horse (even though I was carving right on the lines) didn't resemble a horse from any perspective. I tried some rounding, hoping to give a more life-like appearance to this creature. The pile of shavings grew. My horse was getting smaller, I was into the pony stage when I decided that perhaps I would be better off to change from a horse to a dog. That transition didn't go well.

When I realized that the carving I held in my hand resembled no living creature I was familiar with, I knew I was in trouble. The pile of soap shavings now covered almost my whole area of the table. To carve anything recognizable from the small piece of soap left was very unlikely. Not even a small Chihuahua was possible. That's when I asked my art teacher if I couldn't switch to another project. She said I could do a design on a tee shirt but there wasn't time to do anything too complicated.

A circle with the initials P and G, each taking up half of the circle and following the curve of the circle, became the design that I came up with. A pattern was cut out and the tee shirt purchased and within two days I was going around school wearing a shirt with my initials on it. I not only got the passing grade I thought I had forfeited with the pile of soap shavings, but I got a nickname as well. I became PG or Peeg (the G taking on the G in George sound) around school. That nickname stayed with me through high school.

The PG of that long ago tee shirt was all but forgotten until I started writing a column for Forum Publications. The editor in charge then, Pete Kaufman, thought that the name for the column I would write should be PG Perspectives. That would reflect my name and those letters might even offer me the kind of cover I would need in writing about the kinds of things I would write about. Parental guidance, paying guest, post graduate, pregnant, or whatever, PG would cover it all.

So, many years removed from junior high school I'm still carrying the PG moniker, though not on my back. I thought I had out grown it, but I guess it was just hanging around waiting to make a little sense all these years later.

Reel Thoughts

'Mrs. Brown' makes for a fascinating film

by Betty Jo Tucker

Americans love anything hinting at scandal in connection with Britain's Royal Family. How else explain our endless fascination with the affairs of Princess Di and Prince Charles? In "Mrs. Brown," from Miramax Films, U.S. moviegoers can take a tantalizing look at Queen Victoria's relationship with her favorite servant, John Brown, in 19th Century England.

Before seeing this movie, I knew absolutely nothing about John Brown. Now, I want to learn as much as possible. Here are the main facts agreed upon by historians: Queen Victoria went into a deep funk after the death of Prince Albert, her husband of twenty-one years. She withdrew from public life, went into seclusion, and lost all interest in affairs of state. Hoping to cheer her up, the Queen's private secretary summoned John Brown from Scotland. Brown, the Royal Family's hunting guide and servant, had been a favorite riding companion of Prince Albert. Brown not only changed the Queen's mood but also became her closest friend as well as her protector, much to the dismay of the rest of the court.

Dame Judi Dench, who represents current British acting royalty, plays Victoria, and the outrageous Scottish comedian Billy Connolly is Brown in this new film about their extraordinary friendship. The unusual casting seems inspired, creating just the right sort of dynamic tension needed between these two very different individuals. We forget they are actors and think of them throughout as the prim and proper monarch and her outspoken, rough-hewn servant.

Inquiring minds still want to know if Queen Victoria and Brown were more than just "good friends." After all, even though the Queen was buried beside her beloved Prince Alberts, she asked that a picture of her servant and a lock of his hair be placed in her hand when she died. I put this question to John Madden, director of "Mrs. Brown," during a recent interview at the La Jolla Hyatt Aventine.

John Brown (Billy Connolly) greets Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) in John Madden's "Mrs. Brown.

Laughing a little before answering, he insisted, "Well, I'm sure the Queen greatly enjoyed being lifted off her horse by Mr. Brown, but a physical relationship between them was highly unlikely." Madden did admit that the gossips of the day did talk a lot about such a relationship .

This intriguing film has much going for it, including splendid acting by the entire cast, a well-written script, and beautiful cinematography. It also brings clearly into focus how much the roles we play in life can interfere with meaningful relationships. However, because of the scope of the film, it would be better served as a television mini-series, similar to the classic "I, Claudius" or the wonderful "Duchess of Duke St." In my opinion, PBS should run with the idea of expanding this story as a "Masterpiece Theatre" offering as soon as possible. I, for one, would not miss a single episode!

Letters to the Editor

Get the guy with the gun

Regarding the two who were recently wounded in the shooting at the Suntan parlor. Thanks be to God, both are recovering.

It seems that the police are more concerned with the prostitution tie-in than catching the dangerous criminal who attempted to murder the two hapless victims. Let's put first things first - stopping violent crime should be number one priority, not violations of ordinances, etc. And the press didn't help with their prurient emphasis on prostitution connection.

I don't suppose that there has ever been shootings/murders at non-prostitution establishments. What about Huberty at San Ysidro McDonalds, and 5 murdered at Family Fitness Center in El Cajon and the two at Key Largo Apartments, both in 1993. Also several nuns were murdered by a madman in a convent (back East), and an all night clerk perished at the hands of a gunman at Yum-Yum in Spring Valley, another murder at AM-PM in Lemon Grove, several convenience store clerks manning the deli were shot to death in recent time - just to name a few!

Cops, go after real crime and leave the minor things on the back burner as was suggested by former President Jimmy Carter. If, indeed, this would happen, crime would truly decrease!

MATT ANDERSON
Spring Valley

In Search of the Hysterical Jesus

Theater review by Steven Saint

The story goes that John-Michael Tebelak, a long-haired student at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, decided to drop into an Easter Sunday service at St. Paul's Cathedral. He was stopped and frisked by police for drugs.

Would Jesus and his ragtag band of long-haired, bearded disciples have received the same treatment? Tebelak dedicated his master's thesis in fine arts to the subject. The result was "Godspell," which went on to rack up more than 2,600 performances on and off Broadway in the mid-1970s.

Like "Jesus Christ Superstar," a film version of "Godspell" was released in 1973, at the peak of the Jesus People movement. "Godspell" did not fare as well as "Superstar" at the box office, and vanished into obscurity (it's not available on video), but it wasn't because of me.

I was a major "Godspell" fan.

I must have seen the film 10 times that year, bought both the Broadway and film soundtracks, and played songs like "Day By Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" and "All Good Gifts" in church during our "contemporary" service.

In fact, "Godspell" was sort of a soundtrack for the intense, personal conversion experience I had in high school. For many of us raised in traditional churches, Jesus was an awesome historical figure, usually depicted in films as an otherworldly sage with eyes glazed to the heavens for cue cards.

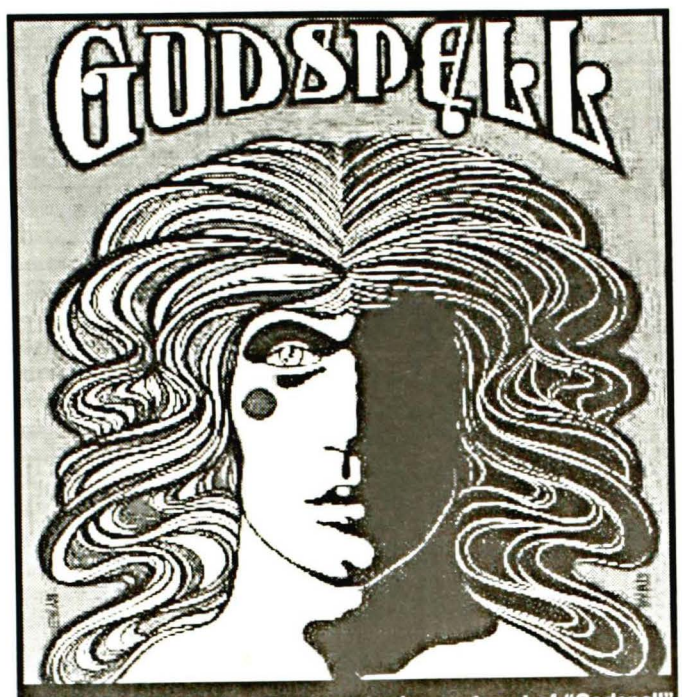
He was to be revered as God's Son sent to save the world some 2,000 years ago ... really a long, long time ago.

Then, talk of being "born again" started burning like a brush fire in the early 1970s. Christians with long hair, beards and guitars were talking about Jesus being a "personal savior," and I was interested.

"Godspell" was a revelation. Here, Jesus was a funny guy. The disciples were a bunch of hippies and clowns. They had a great time acting out parables and the Sermon on the Mount. You wanted to be a part of it all, one of the faithful few who could release Jesus from his stained-glass prison and hug him on that last, fateful night like your heart would break.

Who would have dreamed being a disciple would be a blast?

Nearly 25 years later, "Godspell" is being staged by Christian Community Theater at the Mount Helix amphitheater. I attended opening night with baited breath. Could CCT possibly live up to my expectations? Could they really be irreverent? How would they handle the crucifixion (and beyond)? Would they gloss mediocre musical performances with fancy lights and effects? Would Jesus be funny?



Christian Community Theater's very clean cut cast of "Godspell" includes (front, left to right) David Schwarzentraub, Kat Fitzpatrick and Raymond Harris; (middle) Eleni Gianulis, Katie Wilson and Jenny Bates; and (back) Jon Iorenz, Jason Kent and Justin Parks. The show runs through Aug. 2 at the Mount Helix amphitheater.

It quickly becomes clear that "Godspell" is an excellent vehicle for CCT, playing into the strengths of an organization built on conducting lots of acting classes for kids of all ages around the county.

First, there's almost 40 people in the cast. Jesus' group has blossomed from nine (Tebelak didn't even have 12 in the original) to 37, allowing lots of people to be involved in the production numbers and hyperactive reenactments of the parables and sermons.

Staged like an Elizabethan minstrel show, the cast performs the prologue ("Tower of Babble" in the Broadway version, dropped from the movie) and then unfolds a wagon into stage. Travis Russell has again worked magic with the Mount Helix amphitheater, giving the players lots of stairs, ramps and platforms from which to perform.

The medieval garb is merely a costuming gimmick. The production is modern, giving "Godspell" the update its writer originally intended in the script.

Slapping on a fresh coat of culture is second-nature to CCT's hip (rather, "dope," "fly" or "sick"), young crowd. Director Paul Russell divided the group into four teams and let them brainstorm and improvise on how to stage the scenes.

The results are terrific, from references to Elvis, Nordstrom's and "talking to the hand," to staging "The Prodigal Son" as an episode of "Leave It to Beaver" and making "The Good Samaritan" a six-minute medley of Broadway shows. "Oh Bless the Lord My Soul" is performed by Rosie O'Donnell look-alike, Katie Wilson, during a mock talk show.

Finally, "Godspell" lets the cast unabashedly proclaim the words of Jesus. All goofing aside, the script is largely quotations from the Gospel of Matthew. CCT has put a decidedly evangelical spin on the end (in the original, the dead Jesus is just carried off stage) and the show's last laugh is the minstrels' sign-board announcing that the next appearance of Jesus will be soon.

While certainly strong, CCT's version of "Godspell" has it's troubles. The biggest one is, ironically, the large cast. So many people on stage in such similar costumes makes it difficult to identify with the disciples. Like any ensemble, the original cast of nine not only goofed around, but developed connections and bonds. The audience identified with them and grew to care. The emotional impact of "Godspell" was feeling that these people really loved each other, an impact that is hard to reproduce with a cast of 40.

Thus, the opening-night performance was overcast with a stiff exuberance, a celebration written into the script, not flowing between performers and audience.

Likewise, the band gave a faithful performance of the score, with little or no freshening of the 1971 original. Fortunately, Stephen Schwartz' compositions hold up better than most of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Save the People," "All Good Gifts" and "On the Willows" still pack a wallop. The musicians finally pulled out the stops when they set aside their scorebooks and played some funky jazz during intermission and after the show.

While Jason Kent's Jesus is not particularly funny (costumers gave this third-year law student a hair extension so he wouldn't look too straight), he is eminently engaging as a minister-who-can-relate-to-the-youth. He's got to be one of CCT's best soloists, delivering everything from the ragtime "All For the Best" to the falsetto finale with precision and feeling.

Comic relief, however, is provided in full measure by 15-show veteran Justin Parks, playing Judas. He graces every scene with an impressive array of voices, sound effects and shtick.

Judas ends up betraying Jesus, but "Godspell" doesn't really tell us why. Where "Jesus Christ Superstar" makes Judas the lead character, presenting the Passion of Christ as the misguided consequences of well-intentioned acts, "Godspell" has no plot. Jesus is suddenly hunted down and killed and neither the disciples nor the audience are given any motive.

Without that crucial emotional connection, CCT's finale is more going through motions, although the eerie, bonfire-cast climax is certainly powerful. No doubt, the cast knows how to get a laugh. The challenge will be to reach out and grab some heartstrings.

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5# BACON
10# BEEF RIBS

Forum Publications!
East County's largest circulation every Thursday.

Sample shows college bookstores charge top dollar

by Jake Christie

Community college classes will begin in a month, and students are beginning to think about registration and the ordeal associated with buying textbooks.

Last year, the college board turned over management of the two campus bookstores to corporate book mogul Barnes & Noble, which promised great savings to students.

Those savings seem to have been left out of the latest draft.

Students have complained that the bookstores on both the Cuyamaca and Grossmont campus are not offering the discounts promised. As a result, many students are purchasing textbooks from Barnes & Noble's competitors, Follett and Ross Books of La Mesa.

To verify the student claims, price checks were conducted this summer in the district bookstores, a Follett store and Ross Books.

There were some problems making comparisons, however. Follett sells only used books and Ross carries both new and used; whereas the district stores sell only new books

Because the district allows instructors to choose their textbooks, there were very few books matching between Grossmont and Cuyamaca. All the booksellers were offering summer price lists.

The investigation began at Cuyamaca, where the prices of 20 books (most of the bookstore's stock) were examined. A check at Grossmont revealed only two titles that matched.

The Follett store near Mesa College Drive in San Diego and Ross Books had the two titles matching those used at both Grossmont and Cuyamaca. Follett and Ross also had a third book used at Cuyamaca but not at Grossmont.

Calculus, 4th edition published by Heath, cost the most at Cuyamaca College, $97.70 as compared to $74.50 at Grossmont. A used copy was available for $57.70 at Follett, and for $45.25 at Ross Books.

Looking out/Looking in, published by HBJ, was similarly most expensive at Cuyamaca and cheapest at Ross.

Title	Grossmont	Cuyamaca	Follett	Ross
Calculus	$74.50	$97.70	$57.70	$45.25
Looking Out/ Looking In	38.50	38.70	29.50	26.95
Intro to Psych	not used	59.00	48.75	44.85

The trend was repeated for *Introduction to Psychology*, published by Brooks/Cole.

Managers at the Grossmont and Cuyamaca bookstores declined to comment. Regional supervisor John LaForte said he didn't know about specific prices, but they were even higher at Cuyamaca previous to Barnes & Noble.

"At this campus, textbook prices went down," he said.

He said Barnes & Noble had lowered the markup rate from 30 percent (when the colleges managed the stores) to 25 percent, the industry standard.

He also said that his company had increased buyback value and that there were more cash registers and thus "no lines."

LaForte's optimism is not shared by Mike Ross, proprietor of Ross Books on Navajo Road in Fletcher Hills.

He said the college district is trying to gain a monopoly on book sales with corporate help.

"The school doesn't like competition," Ross said. "The fact is most off-campus bookstores coexist. They seem to be trying to resist free trade."

He also said that he is getting the cold shoulder from nearby Grossmont College, pointing to the glossary section in Grossmont's *1997 Summer Class Schedule*. The glossary states in the definition of the term "bookstore," that "Grossmont College has no off-campus bookstore."

However true that may be, Ross claims it didn't scare off business during summer session.

"Nope," he said, "I'd say it's a small impact."

New driving school opens in area

La Mesa Driving School is now offering "Driver Education," a 30-hour classroom program and "Driver Training," a 6-hour, "behind-the-wheel" program.

These classes are required by the state of California for all new drivers under 18 years of age.

Driver Proficiency Evaluations are offered for experienced drivers to refresh their driving techniques.

"Most high schools within the county have limited driver education programs," said owner Buck Matoushek. "We are centrally located, so we can accommodate future drivers from the coast to Ramona and from the North County to the South Bay."

Matoushek is also the owner of La Mesa Traffic School, which he bought from Ken Seguine in 1994.

Seguine established the school in 1977. He has many hours of driver training instruction and is the operator and instructor for La Mesa Driving School.

La Mesa Driving School is located at 7317 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 103-B (4 blocks east of 70th St.) For more information on the class schedules, call 466-4565.

Opinion

Break up the last Spanish viceroy

by Joe Naiman

I'm glad to see that the Mexican government has come to a radical change peacefully. It gives additional hope to Mexico undergoing a bloodless revolution.

Over the last few years there has been turmoil within Mexico. Rather than regretting it, I feel that this is long overdue.

Although the left-of-center PRI and PDR parties dominate in Central Mexico, the right-of-center PAN party is strong in the three northern states. The rebellion in Chiapas illustrates conflict between the central government and the Indians in the south.

Mexico's real problem isn't corruption. It's that Spanish viceroys drew up the country's boundaries.

There are 20 countries in Latin America (not counting the former British and Dutch colonies). Fourteen countries were carved out of four Spanish viceroyalties.

Actually the viceroyalty of New Spain, which included Mexico, produced more nations than any of the other three. Including the United States, which acquired the northern part of Mexico through Mexican War annexations and the Gadsden Purchase, New Spain now covers seven countries.

But when independence from Spain was declared, the viceroyalty was divided into two nations: Mexico and the Central American provinces. Central America would soon be divvied into five nations, but Mexico remained one.

Here lies the difference between South America and Mexico. With the mountainous areas of South America not conducive to settlements, cultural differences within most South American nations (Brazil being a notable exception) are minimal. In the more coastal area of Central America, cultural differences caused the peaceful transition of one nation into five. In Mexico, cultural differences lead to rebellion and opposition.

American tourists hate to drive in Mexico or sometimes even visit Mexico because of Mexican law and its enforcement. This federal law was not intended to trap tourists, but rather to govern a Mexico City-based populace.

Northern Mexico would benefit from dissolving the last political remains of Spanish colonialism. Cultural similarities would give the Indians better economic opportunities if they, rather than Mexico City, could set policy with other nations. Southern Mexico would benefit from a breakup of a land designed for a Spanish viceroy.

The problem with Mexico isn't its people, it's that the people are virtually living in the last Spanish viceroyalty. Destroying the state of Mexico shouldn't be cause for alarm. It's something that should have been done in the early 19th century.

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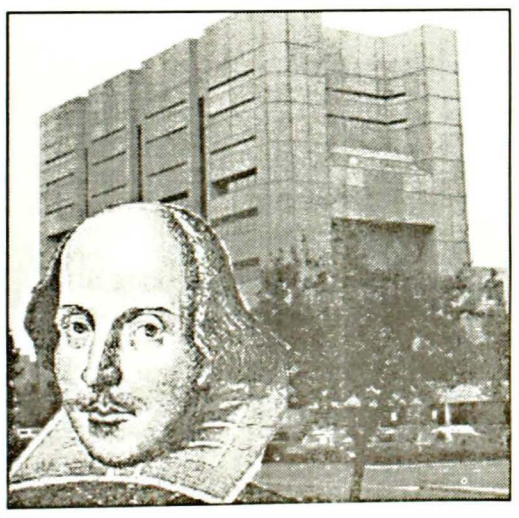
Shakespeare will be there!



Readers, writers!
Your presence is requested as the Forum Club experiences yet another edition of Octad-One's Shakespeare by the Lake

"Much Ado About Nothing"

Saturday, July 26
4 pm picnic in the park • 6 pm play

East County Performing Arts Outdoor Amphitheater
210 E. Main St, El Cajon
Call 469-0101 to RSVP

B Words

by Bob Burns

Uncle Bob wants you!

This is a plaintiff appeal to renew the interest and especially to induce more of my peer group to join the Lemon Grove Senior Patrol. I also include the whole area served by our Lemon Grove Station which is Spring Valley, Mount Helix and Casa de Oro.

What started off with a bang, and what has rendered excellent service over the past three years, has begun to fade. With people our age group, it is certain that a steady attrition will occur. We have had illness, relocation, burnout, and even death cut through our ranks. Some have given a couple of years, and felt it was enough. No matter what the reasons, our complement of bodies to fill out the shifts, has dwindled in numbers. Certainly a very rousing vote of Thanks is raised to them all who have so selflessly served.

But I know that there are still a lot of eligible people out there, who may be looking for something useful to occupy their retirement, that would be ideal for membership in the RSVP. The rewards are many in so many degrees of satisfaction in volunteering to do useful work, in a pleasant environment, and experience the hearty approval and appreciation of the neighbors that are served. The smiles and waves that we get while driving through the neighborhoods, or checking on a home that is left in our care by vacationers, or the welcomed voice of a shut-in when called or visited, cannot be properly evaluated.

All that is required is that one be of reasonable good health, be able to drive a patrol car, and be willing to show up when duty is assigned. We are strictly forbidden to be confrontational, or be in any situation of danger at all. Being in constant direct contact with the Sheriffs dispatch center, a deputy is always at hand to handle such events. There are always "cowboys" or aggressive personalities, even in our age brackets, but they are not permitted to wear the uniform. Very few have had to be disqualified for these reasons, but it is a concern and properly controlled.

A couple of weeks of training, a driving test, and some home study of the radio codes and procedures are all that is required. We learn First Aid and CPR, and are accompanied by the best people in the world. The Sheriff has been very accommodating in endorsing this program, and assisting in its implementation. The work that we do is to relieve the sworn personnel of the mundane and routine tasks while being additional EYES and EARS for our law enforcement agency.

Information about the Senior Patrol can be obtained from any of our members. Flag down one of the Volunteer cars and you will be given any and all answers to your questions. The Sheriff's Station at 3240 Main St., next to city hall, is also where applications and information about the Patrol can be obtained. Soon there will be another Academy...Ladies, here is a chance to get the old man out from underfoot and make him feel worth while again. And, if he won't get off the couch, then you come on down and join our group. Our ladies are doing as well or better than the male members of RSVP.

Your hometown newspaper - *The Lemon Grove Review*

Worship Directory

LEMON GROVE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2770 Glebe Road • Lemon Grove
Edward Pettis, Pastor
Sunday Worship & Church School
10:15 a.m.

Lemon Grove Assembly of God
Currently using the
Mount Miguel High School at
1800 Sweetwater Road
Worship Service & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Nursery & Child Care provided
Pastor Jim Reed 697-7770

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
8086 BROADWAY
LEMON GROVE, CA 91945
PASTOR MSGR. EDWARD BROCKHAUS
Call Rectory for information and Mass Schedule **466-3209**

LEMON GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Loving God - Living Christ
Corner Skyline and Alton Drive
John R. Embree, Pastor
Telephone: 465-7301
Summer Worship times:
Outdoors at 8 a.m. Traditional at 9 a.m.

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Worship: 9:00 & 10:40 AM Sun.; 6:00 PM Sat.
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6970 San Miguel Ave. Lemon Grove, 2 Blk W. of Mass.

Shouldn't your church be in the Worship Directory? Call 469-0101 for rates

Let the Lemon Grove community know that you are there!
For as little as $3.75 per week your church can be in the worship directory.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CNS1499918

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WESLEY STANLEY HUNT CASE NO. P170457

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: WESLEY STANLEY HUNT

A PETITION has been filed by BRUCE SCHEURENBRAND in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

THE PETITION requests that BRUCE SCHEURENBRAND be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 4, 1997 at 1:45 P.M. in Dept. 35 located at 220 West Broadway San Diego CA 92101.

IF YOU OBJECT TO the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in section 1250 of the California Probate Code. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Jerilyn S. Jones
Brierton & Jones
1010 Second Ave., #2300
San Diego CA 92101
07/17, 07/22, 07/24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TS No. 97-4529 Loan No. 7573598 Title Order No. 03039575-80 Investor/Insurer No. 2134736CALA APN No. 479-481-08-00

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 02/16/93. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Notice is hereby given that CTC Foreclosure Services Corporation, as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by JAMES B STRAUB AND HEATHER E STRAUB, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, dated 02/16/93, and recorded 02/24/93, as Instrument No. 1993-0113836, in book , page 2081, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, State of California, will sell on 08/07/97 at 10:00AM, AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 220 WEST BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA, at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2185 SAINT CROIX COURT, LEMON GROVE, CA, 91945. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $150763.26. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. Dated: CTC Foreclosure Services Corporation, 400 Countrywide Way, SV-88, Simi Valley, CA 93065. Phone (805) 520-5241 ext. 2686. Sale Information (916) 387-0236. By: /S/Trustee Sale Officer. CTC Foreclosure Services is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

07/17/1997, 07/24/1997 and 07/31/1997

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

T.S. NO. 69190999LC
TITLE ORDER NO. 5780231
APN # 479-116-17

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/29/90. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

On 8/7/97 at 9:00 A.M., **N.A. MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.** as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, Recorded on 4/4/90 as Instrument No. 90-179542 Book ** Page ** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Diego County, California, executed by: Richard K. Alba Trustee of the Richard K. Alba Revocable Living Trust U/D/T November 23, 1988, John F. Conney and Nancy E. Conney, husband and wife, as Trustor, American Savings Bank, F.A., as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: Ditmar Street entrance to the City Hall East, 300 Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: Lot 17 of Broadway Gardens, in the City of Lemon Grove, County of San Diego, State of California, according to map thereof no. 5454, filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, August 26, 1964. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 7115 A-D Westview Place, Lemon Grove, CA 92045. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: $273,576.56. Estimated. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Date: 7/9/97. N.A. MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., As Trustee. 400 E. Main Street, Stockton, CA 95290-4009. Attn: Trustee Offices (408) 975-2776. By: Linda Carter, Agent. TPS# 38360. Jul. 17, 24, 31, 1997

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Grossmont Union High School District will receive bids for

REFINISHING OF GYMNASIUM FLOORS DISTRICTWIDE

Each bid shall be submitted on a form obtained at the Purchasing Department of said District located at 1100 Murray Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020, shall be sealed and filed in said Purchasing Department on or before **9:00 a.m.** on

AUGUST 1, 1997

and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time and place.

The District reserves the right to award to the lowest responsive bidder meeting bid specifications.

The Grossmont Union High School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept or reject any one or more items of a bid or to waive any irregularities or informalities in the bids or in the bidding.

Bidder shall be required to file with each bid proposal a certified check, cashier's check or a bidder's bond from an admitted surety insurer made payable to Grossmont Union High School District in an amount of five hundred dollars ($500.00) as evidence of good faith in the matter of executing the contract; said checks to be returned to unsuccessful bidders within a reasonable time after bids are awarded. If successful bidder declines to enter into contract after being awarded the bid, the bid bond shall be forfeited to the District.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

In the event of identical bids, the Governing Board may determine by lot which bid shall be accepted per Public Contract Code No. 20117.

Nadia Q. Davies
Clerk of the Governing Board
Grossmont Union High School District
of San Diego County, California
Bid No. 2677

Lemon Grove Review
July 17 & 24, 1997

SUMMARY OF AN URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.20.010(F) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 268

On July 15, 1997, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 268 pursuant to the urgency provisions of Section 36937 of the California Government Code. Ordinance No. 268 provides for a mixture of General Commercial and Heavy Commercial uses in a portion of Special Treatment Area III. This summary is published pursuant to Section 36933(c)(1) of the California Government Code.

Voting For: Sessom, Clabby, Jandura, Lake, Shelley
Voting Against: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945.

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
July 24, 1997

SUMMARY OF AN URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9.40 OF THE LEMON GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 269

On July 15, 1997, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 269 pursuant to the urgency provisions of Section 36937 of the California Government Code. Ordinance No. 269 revises the curfew ordinance to be consistent with the unincorporated areas of the County. This summary is published pursuant to Section 36933(c)(1) of the California Government Code.

Voting For: Sessom, Clabby, Jandura, Lake, Shelley
Voting Against: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945.

Lemon Grove Review
July 24, 1997

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 5473 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, the Board of Directors of the Lemon Grove Sanitation District of San Diego County has determined that the sewer service charge of the Lemon Grove Sanitation District for Fiscal Year 1997-98 which is imposed by Resolution as adopted by said Sanitation District and which became due on July 1, 1997, shall be collected on the tax roll in the same manner and by the same persons, and at the same time as, together with and not separately from the general taxes of said Sanitation District, and has caused to be prepared and filed with the Clerk of said Sanitation District a written report containing a description of each parcel of property receiving service from the Sanitation District and the amount of charges for each parcel for the Fiscal Year 1997-98, computed in conformity with the charges prescribed by said Resolution as adopted.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on the 5th of August 1997, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at the Lemon Grove Community Center, 3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, California, the Lemon Grove Sanitation District will hold a public hearing on said report. At said hearing, any interested person may appear and object or protest and the Board of Directors shall hear and consider all objections and protests to said report.

CHRISTINE TAUB
Clerk of the Board of Directors
Lemon Grove Sanitation District

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City will provide special accommodations for persons who require assistance to access, attend and/or participate in meetings of the City Council. If you require such assistance, please contact the City Clerk at (619) 464-6934 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Lemon Grove Review
July 24, 1997

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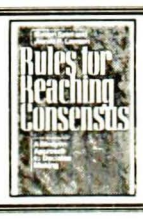

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BBB offers tips on use of debit cards

It looks like a credit card with a Visa or MasterCard logo and it can be used like a credit card but it's not a credit card and works more like a check. What is it?

It's a debit card and it can be costly to uniformed users, says the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

"A debit card has definite advantages but consumers need to realize exactly how it can impact your bank accounts," said Gerry Wilson, local BBB president.

The use of debit cards is expected to grow substantially because of their convenience. Already, 60 million debit cards are in circulation, up from 25 million two years ago.

There are basically two types of transactions with a debit card, Wilson said.

First, on-line transactions are made at ATMs with a debit card. Just put in a personal identification code (PIN) and the cash you need is electronically transferred from the account you designate.

Second, off-line transactions with a debit card are generally made at stores. The transaction is treated like a credit card sale except the money used to pay for the merchandise is deducted from your checking account, usually within a day or two.

Debit cards have some advantages over credit cards. There is no danger of debt piling up since the money is withdrawn almost immediately from the account. There is no interest on monthly credit card bills not paid in full, and there are no fees for late payments.

But, there are charges associated with debit cards, Wilson added, and consumers might not be aware of the costs. Off-line cards have minimal fees that typically run $1.50 per month. On-line transactions can cost 50 cents or more. Fees can be imposed by your bank, as well as the bank that owns the ATM you may be using.

Another major danger for consumers is if your debit card is stolen. Before you decide to take advantage of debit cards, the BBB recommends the following tips:

• If you plan to be heavy card user, keep accurate transaction records. You may also consider getting over-draft protection so that you won't accidentally send your checking account into default.

• Every time you are tempted to use your card, think about whether you'd pay less with a paper check or cash.

• At some gas stations, using your debit card could result in paying a higher gas price. Also, at some grocery stores, you could be paying a small fee.

• Consumers should carefully protect the security of their debit cards and related PIN numbers. A thief with your debit card number can clean your bank account out even before you know the money is missing.

• Keep in mind that with an off-line debit card a thief doesn't need your actual card to debit your bank account; often only the card's number is sufficient. All the thief has to do is forge your signature. So, report your lost or stolen card to the bank immediately.

• If you have additional questions about debit cards, phone the BBB's 24-hour Consumer Helpline at (619) 496-2131 or 1-800-600-7050.

Private college funds go unused

A conservative estimate of college costs for a full-time student runs from $10,000 - $30,000; high cost colleges can run from $40,000 - $100,000. Most parents and students think that scholarships are only for those with excellent grades, low-income, or the athletically inclined.

Billions of dollars are available to students from private sector scholarships. Much of private sector financial aid goes unused because the parents and students don't know how or where to apply.

There are organizations that have spent hundreds of hours in research locating scholarship sources. the U. S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance - college bound is such an organization and supplies over 700 different private scholarships sources.

Many scholarships pay the entire tuition; others can be applied towards tuition, living expenses, and/or other fees. Most scholarships can be used at junior colleges, career and vocational school, 4 year colleges, graduate schools, medical and law schools.

For information on obtaining these scholarship lists, send a self-addressed, stamped, business size, #10 envelope to: the US. commission for Scholastic Assistance, P.O. Box 668, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

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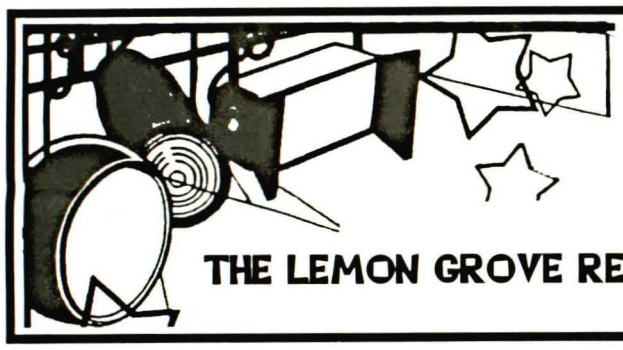

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